

THE REHEARSAL.

Numb. 63

The present Subject Interrupted for a Play-Day to the Country-man. Who tells of a Dispute betwixt a Park-keeper, and a Deer-Stealer.

1. The Deer-stealer wou'd not let the Park-keeper mend the Pales of his Park.
2. The Deer-stealer Pleads a Title to the Park, from some Liberties had been allow'd him in the Park.
3. How he manag'd a Park he had Seiz'd beyond Trent.
4. And how he Treated a Brother of the Park-keepers There.
5. He Bullies the Park-keeper. And talks Learnedly of Laws, Liberty and Levelling.
6. He will not suffer the Park-keeper to look beyond Trent: Though he himself do's.
7. And gives Good Reason for it. With the True Meaning of Law, Right, and Justice.

From Saturday October the 6th to Thursday October the 11th, 1705.

Country-man. YOU deal a little hardly by me, *Master*, in keeping me who am but a Young Convert, so long upon the *Stretch*, wholly upon the *Serious*, as you have done; And I perceive it will be some time yet, before you have gone through that *Work* you have Cut out for your self. And I must not intermix any of my foolish Stories, when you are upon your serious Discourse. It wou'd Interrupt and Break the Links of your Chain, and it wou'd be Trouble to Join them together again; And great Part might slip out of my Mind, and I Confess wou'd make it less Useful to me.

Therefore I desire you wou'd give me a *Play-Day* now and then, to Refresh me; And bear a little with my simple way; And then I shall hear afterwards more Attentively to your *Lectures*.

Rehears. For once, and not to make a Custom of it, I'll Gratify you, *Country-man*. For they say, *All Work, and no Play, makes Jack a Dull Boy*. Now this *Day* is yours, you shall have the whole Discourse to your self, upon what Subject you Please. And I will hear you Patiently.

(1.) *Country-m.* I'll tell you a Dispute happen'd lately in our Country, betwixt a *Park-Keeper* and a *Deer-Stealer*. The Case was this. The Wind had Blown down some of the Pales of the Park. And the *Park-Keeper* was about Repairing them. No. Said the *Deer-Stealer*, you sha'nt do that. For 'twill make a Quarrel. It shews you Suspect me. And that's an Affront! Besides 'tis to no Purpose; it will only tempt me to Break your Pales. But what Reason have you for it? For, upon my Word, I have not Stole a Deer out of your Park, these three Days. I shall do you less Mischiefe when it is freely in my Power, than if you make it more Troublesome to me. You know Forbidding a thing, Creates an Appetite to it. Orchards are often Robb'd: But seldom the Apples that Grow on Hedge-Rows in the High-Way.

However, to shew my Moderation, I'll Compound with you. There your Pales are Lying, Look ye, there they are. Now do not you touch them, and I will not. Let them Lie as they are. Only do not put them up again. That's all I ask.

Said *Park-Keeper*, What do they signify to me, if I do not put them up? My Park Lies open. Therefore I will put them up.

If you will, said *Deer-Stealer*, I take all the World to Witness, That 'tis you make the Quarrel! That you are an Un-Reasonable Man, and have no Moderation in you! Nothing will serve you, but to have the Park all to your self! Am not I a Man as well as you? And may not I have a Bit, when you have Full Meals? Come! Come! He that wou'd Engross all, may Lose all! Here are no Neighbourly Dealings at all with you!

(2.) Besides, I must tell you (since 'tis come to that) That I have as good Title to this Park as your self. Hey day! Said the *Park-Keeper*, That's News indeed! Pray, how comes that to pass?

Why? Don't you Remember, reply'd *Deer-Stealer*, (with a Brisk Air.) That some time ago, you, to make up the old Difference betwixt us, and to Settle a Better Correspondence for the Future, gave me the Running of so many Horse in your Park, and likewise so many Bucks every Season? Therefore I say, and I Insist upon it, that this Liberty or Toleration you have Given me, is an Establishment. And that I have as much Right to my Share of the Park, as you have to yours. And there is no Differences but that you have a Larger Share, and more Deer to Dispose of than I have.

The *Park-Keeper* answer'd to this, That to give a Man the Running of a Horse in ones Ground, was not to give him any Title to the Inheritance of the Ground. And the Bucks I promis'd you (said he) was my own free Gift. And is this the Return I have for it, to set up your Title to the Park? A man must have a Care how he Grants any Favours, at this Rate! At least, to Whom! To Men of your Principles! Is there no Reason, no Gratitude in you? How oft have I Catch'd you at *Deer-Stealing*, in the very Fact? And instead of telling my Master of it, and having you Prosecuted, I Wink'd at it, and made this Agreement with you, in Hopes to have Reclaim'd you; at least to keep our Park safe from you.

At this the *Deer-Stealer* Laugh'd Aloud! And said! You'r a fine *Park-Keeper* indeed! To take upon you, to make Bargains for your LORD'S Park, without his Consent; (who never gave you any such Commission) And then Trust to the Truth, and Honour and Gratitude of a *Deer-Stealer*! What Account will you give of this? One Day.

(3.) Though I'm a *Deer-Stealer* here, I have a Park of my own, beyond Trent. Where you never shall be Keeper. For I manage it at another guest Rate. I suffer not one of your *Deer-Stealers* to set his Nose within it; for I know 'em all: And will not suffer one of them to Cut so much as a Bunch of Rushes in it. I know what it is, to use a *Deer-Stealer* to a Park, upon whatever Pretence! To give him but an Inch—He'll soon take an Ell!

Therefore, I have a *Deer-Stealer* for my Keeper. They are the Best Keepers! They know all the Tricks that belong to it. And no other *Deer-Stealer* dare come near it. He'll Smell 'em at a Mile's distance.

At this, the *Park-Keeper* fetch'd a Deep Sigh, and said, you bring my old Sins to Remembrance! You once, upon a Day, Wheedl'd and Cajonl'd me to let some of my Sons go a *Deer-Stealing* You

with you, into a Neighbour's Park. Then I gave you that Toleracion in my Park you speak of. For which I have Deerly Pay'd Succ. And am like to Pay more still! If not, to lose my Place!

(4.) But I remember full well, That you then Gave me your Promise that my Brother, who once had a Park near yours beyond Trent, shou'd have the same Liberty there that I allow'd you here. And your Deer-Stealer, whom you Perswaded him to make Keeper of his Park too, did faithfully Promise, and gave it under his Hand, which I have still Ready to Produce, That he wou'd take all Possible Care of the Park, and not Remove any of the UnderKeepers. And yet he Turn'd every one of them out. And which is more, Pull'd down all the Pales of the Park, he left not one standing; and Let out the Park in Tenements to his own Crew of Deer-Stealers thereabouts.

That was because he understood his Business! Reply'd the Deer-Stealer, with a Scornful Smile! And you may Talk of him what you will— But I'm sure he was True and Faithful to ME: And shall have my Good Word, the longest Day I have to Live!

And had he stay'd with me a little Longer, (but his Lease was out, and he was Forc'd to Remove to another Place!) your Park had been, by this Time, in the same Condition as your Brother's. Though I'm not out of Hopes of it yet! A little Comprehension will do the Business! Let but some of my Deer-Stealers into your Park; you'll see what Work they'll make!

(5.) Nay, I'll tell you more, Mr. Park-keeper, you Dare not Refuse it, when I Please to Ask it! I have you under my Feet! You Dare not say your Soul's your own! You Dare not Stretch out one Finger towards setting up your CORPORATION and TEST Pales, which I have Blown down, with one OCCASIONAL Breath! There they are Lying. Keep them to Stir your Potage! That's all they'r now Good for! But if you Offer to Fix one of them in the Ground again: Or say, That they were ever Meant to keep ME out of your Park—I'll Break all the Bones in your Skin! I'll Raise up the Magazine of Original Power upon you, and Deliver you to the Discretion of our Sovereign Lord the Mob! I'll have you Tore in Pieces, for a Bloody Persecutor! who has a Design upon my Life! For he that wou'd take the Bread out of my Mouth, wou'd not he Destroy me? I live by my Employment! I'm an honest Deer-Stealer! And I have Thriven well upon it! And he that wou'd take my Office from me, takes away my Subsistence, and wou'd Starve me and my Family. I have Bred up my Sons to the same Trade! We have Private Academies for that, up and down the Kingdom; And are Taught how to Elude all your Forrest-Laws! Those Badges of Slavery! And Disturbers of Original Freedom! That if a Man be never so Hungry, he Dare not Steal a Deer, or Shoot a Bird, for spoiling of my Lord's Game forsooth! And I must Starve, to make him Sport! What do ye tell me of old Stories of Tyrants? Never any thing was like This! Every Mannor, Every Park is Downright Tyranny! What is it Else? And sets up a Tyrant, within Every three or four Miles! That one cannot Travel the Road for them! Nor go out of a Slow, tho' his Cart shou'd Break, for Fear of Trespassing upon his Worship's Land! Pretty! Pretty!

And these TYRANTS Engross what God Created for the Common Benefit of all Mankind, that is, the Wild Beasts of the Earth, and the Wild-Birds of the Air, and the Fishes of the Sea. They are OURS! the Peoples! Every Bodies! And these Great Men, wou'd Keep them All to Themselves! They Steal OUR Deer, to put into their Parks! They are the true Deer-Stealers! And we must be Hanged, for seeking after a little

of our own! They Steal OUR Fish out of the Rivers, and put them into their Ponds! And will not let US take any that is Left even in the Rivers! That is my Lord's or his Worship's RIVER! They'll take away our Fishing-Rods, and Bind us over, and Plague us at Law! And they Call this Liberty and Property! Ay Marry! 'Tis a Good Liberty to Them! that is, to a very Few of the People, who Lord it over the Rest! Over ten Thousands more than Themselves! But 'tis Downright Oppression and Tyranny over the far Greatest Part of the People; who are the Original of Government, but have the Least Share in the Advantages of it!

Don't tell me of Law! (then Cry'd he out in a Passion!) A LEGAL Tyranny is the WORST Tyranny! Because it is Hardest to be Resisted. And Every Body is against One! A Man may Fish in any River in Turkey, or Morocco; And Eat a Lion or an Elephant, if he can Catch him. They have no Parks or Inclosures. That looks like a Face of Liberty! Wild Beasts, Fish and Fowl, are left Common to All, as Nature left them. You may Talk of Laws what you will (said he) but if it were not for the Name of Liberty, one had as good be without them! As a Man said that was Galloping upon a Hobby-Horse, if it had not been for the Name of Riding, he had as good have gone a Foot.

For my Part (said he) I'm for Levelling. without that there's no Liberty. Laws and Liberty, are Whigg and Tory, High-Church and Low Church, perfect opposites, the one cannot Subsist, without the Destruction of the other. The Law is a Pair of Tongs with which the Rich and the Great take the Poor by the Nose, and hold it to the Grind-Stone, as St. Dunstan serv'd the Devil. A Poor man cannot go to Law. And if he do's, he's sure to be Undone, whether he Gain or Lose the Cause. And after the first or second Term, must sue in Forma Pauperis. Which is a Blessed State!

(6.) The very Stage, (said Park Keeper) to which you have Reduc'd my poor Brother, 't'other side of Trent. Contrary to your Faith and Promise Solemnly Given!

What's your Brother to You? Reply'd Deer-Stealer. If you thought him Wrang'd, why did you not Complain? You have not Dar'd to this Day, so much as to Petition for him! He has a fine Brother of you indeed! No, nor you Dare not Complain of your own Wrongs! Nor say that you are Wrang'd, or in the least Danger, though I have pull'd down your Pales before your Face! And therefore I Plead it, as my Defence, that you are not Wrang'd, or in any Danger, because you are so Tame! And who shall say you are in any Danger, if you Dare not do it your self!

I have Turn'd your Brother out of House and Home, And intend to serve YOU so, in a little Time. And it is not the First time, you know! Yet you Dare not say a Word o'nt! What then shou'd Hinder me! O, I Love these Passive Enemies! Who when I am Breaking open the Doors of their Defensive LAWS, have not the Courage so much as to Suspect me of any Evil Design! Or Dare not Say so! For fear of Raising a Hubbub, and Disturbing the Neighbourhood! Though you saw me last Night, Breaking open your Brother's Doors upon the same Pretence, and when I had got in, Turn'd him and his Family a Drift.

And you know since that, I Suspected your Brother of some Designs to Nab me, and steal into his own House again. And brought the Cause to London, and had it Try'd here. And laid you by the Heels too, as not Doubting but you were in the same Plot. And had not it Miscarry'd, by being Discover'd! I shou'd have had More of your Friends in Limbo, and made as good a Plot on't Here as There? Thus I may look beyond Trent: But you must not? What have we to do with Trent? Say I when you Complain of the Doings of any of my Friends there. Then we are Strangers? And never Saw one another.

(7.) And you wou'd Turn my own Law and Rule upon Me! Wou'd you? But I must tell you, That's Un-mannerly! 'Tis like Hitting a Man a Slap o'th' Face! And you must not expect to Go away with it.

You Understand not Common Language. I pity your Ignorance! That Causes most of your Mistakes! And makes you Argue and Act too like a Child! For when we Deer-Stealers speak Against the Laws, we only mean those Laws that are Against US. But we make Use of the Laws against Others, as well as Other Men.

Indeed, Neighbour, you know not the World, though you have had pretty long Experience; And of my Teaching too! you talk of Laws, and Constitution, of Rights, and Reason; And Quote Scripture to High-way Men! But Power is the Unpire! That Determines it! That can make Right, Wrong; And Wrong, Right! Therefore, if you wou'd have Right done you, you must Keep the Power! All the Rest is Chess, and Childrens-Play!